

(c) extending the first closing time using the second time interval in accordance with the determination;

C' wherein an auction sponsor and at least one bidder are coupled electronically over a communication network during the auction; and

wherein the first closing time corresponds to an end of the first time interval if the first closing time is not extended in step (c), and the first closing time corresponds to an end of the second time interval if the first time interval is extended in step (c).

C2 92. The method of claim 89, wherein the second time interval varies during the auction.

C4 94. The method of claim 89, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if the submitted bid is better than a current best bid for the first lot.

95. The method of claim 89, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if an amount of the submitted bid is within a predetermined amount of another bid for the first lot.

96. The method of claim 89, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if the submitted bid is within a predetermined rank of another bid for the first lot.

97. The method of claim 89, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if the submitted bid is within a predetermined percentage of another bid for the first lot.

99. A computer-readable medium for controlling overtime in an electronic auction, the medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the following steps:

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- (a) defining a first time interval corresponding to at least a portion of time during which bids are submitted to the auction for a first lot, a second time interval, a first overtime condition and a first closing time for the first lot, the first time interval not being equal to the second time interval;
 - (b) determining whether the first overtime condition occurs during the first time interval; and
 - (c) extending the first closing time using said second time interval in accordance with the determination;

wherein an auction sponsor and each bidder are coupled electronically over a communication network during the auction;

wherein the first closing time corresponds to an end of the first time interval if the first closing time is not extended in step (c), and the first closing time corresponds to an end of the second time interval if the first time interval is extended in step (c).

102. The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein [said] the second time interval varies during [the course of] the auction.

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C7 23 105. The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein a received bid triggers an overtime extension if an amount of the received bid is within a predetermined amount of another bid for the first lot.

C8 109. A method of displaying an updated lot closing time in an electronic auction, comprising:
displaying information about a first lot in the auction, the information including a lot bid status and a closing time for the first lot;

receiving a bid for the first lot within a first time interval prior to the closing time; and
if the received bid triggers an overtime extension in the first lot, displaying an updated closing time, the updated closing time being determined by extending the closing time by a time extension increment, the time extension increment not being equal to the first time interval.

110. The method of claim 109, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if the received bid is better than a current best bid for the first lot.

111. The method of claim 109, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if the amount of the received bid is within a predetermined amount of another bid for the first lot.

112. The method of claim 109, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if the received bid is within a predetermined rank of another bid for the first lot.

113. The method of claim 109, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if the received bid is within a predetermined percentage of another bid for the first lot.

115. The method of claim 109, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if the received bid is received within a predefined time increment of the closing time.

117. The method of claim 109, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if a bidder submitting the bid is an incumbent supplier.

119. A computer-readable medium for displaying an updated lot closing time in an electronic auction, the medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

display information about a first lot, the information including a lot bid status and a closing time for the first lot;

receive a bid for the first lot within a first time interval of the closing time; and

if the received bid triggers an overtime extension in the first lot, display an updated closing time, the updated closing time being determined by extending the closing time by a time extension increment, the time extension increment not being equal to the first time interval.

120. The computer-readable medium of claim 119, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if the received bid is better than a current best bid for the first lot.

121. The computer-readable medium of claim 119, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if an amount of the received bid is within a predetermined amount of another bid for the first lot.

122. The computer-readable medium of claim 119, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if the received bid is within a predetermined rank of another bid for the first lot.

123. The computer-readable medium of claim 119, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if the received bid is within a predetermined percentage of another bid for the first lot.

125. The computer-readable medium of claim 119, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if the received bid is submitted within a predefined time increment of the closing time.

C9 127. The computer-readable medium of claim 119, wherein the received bid triggers an overtime extension if a bidder submitting the bid is an incumbent supplier.

128. The computer-readable medium of claim 119, wherein the overtime extension increment is determined by an overtime extension parameter that is specific to the first lot.

129. A bidding device operated by a bidder during a multi-lot auction, the bidding device comprising software that enables the bidder to submit bids to an online auction;

wherein the bidding device displays information about a lot, the information including a closing time of the lot, wherein the closing time indicates that the lot is open for bidding; and

wherein if a bidder submits a bid for the lot that meets an overtime extension criteria within a predefined time interval before the closing time, the bidding device displays an updated closing time that is determined by extending the closing time by a first time extension increment.

Please add new claims 138-162 as follows:

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138. A method to control overtime in an electronic auction, comprising:

defining a first time interval, a second time interval, a first overtime condition and a first closing time for a lot, the first time interval not being equal to the second time interval;

determining whether the first overtime condition occurs during the first time interval; and

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extending the first closing time using the second time interval in accordance with the determination.

139. The method of claim 138, wherein the second time interval varies during the auction.

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140. The method of claim 138, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if an amount of a bid is within at least one of a predetermined amount, a predetermined rank, and a predetermined percentage of another bid for the lot.

141. The method of claim 138, wherein an overtime extension is triggered when any bid is submitted.

142. The method of claim 138, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if a bid is better than a current best bid for the lot.

143. The method of claim 138, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if a bid is not better than a current best bid for the lot.

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144. The method of claim 138, wherein the first time interval comprises an overtime trigger interval before the first closing time.

145. The method of claim 138, wherein the second time interval comprises an overtime extension interval that extends the first closing time.

146. The method of claim 138, wherein the second time interval extends to a second closing time, further comprising:

defining a third time interval, a fourth time interval, and a second overtime condition for the lot, the third time interval not being equal to the fourth time interval;

determining whether the second overtime condition occurs during the third time interval;

and

extending the second closing time by the fourth time interval in accordance with the second determination.

147. A method to control overtime in an electronic auction, comprising:

defining a first time interval, a second time interval, a first overtime condition, and a first closing time for a lot;

determining whether the first overtime condition occurs during the first time interval, the first overtime condition comprising:

receiving a plurality of bids having a bid price,

determining a current best bid, and

receiving a bid having a bid price not better than the current best bid; and

extending the first closing time by the second time interval in accordance with the determination.

148. The method of claim 147, wherein the defining comprises:

providing the first time interval that is equal to the second time interval.

149. The method of claim 147, wherein the defining comprises:

providing the first time interval that is not equal to the second time interval.

150. The method of claim 147, wherein the second time interval extends to a second closing time, further comprising:

defining a third time interval, a fourth time interval, and a second overtime condition for the first lot;

determining whether the second overtime condition occurs during the third time interval;
and

extending the second closing time by the fourth time interval in accordance with the second determination.

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151. A machine-readable medium for controlling overtime in an electronic auction, the medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:
define an overtime triggering interval, an extension time interval, an overtime condition and a closing time for a lot, the overtime triggering interval not being equal to the extension time interval;

determine whether the overtime condition occurs during the overtime triggering interval;
and

extending the closing time using the extension time interval in accordance with the determination.

152. The machine-readable medium of claim 151, wherein the overtime condition occurs when any bid is received during the overtime triggering interval.

153. The machine-readable medium of claim 151, wherein the overtime condition occurs when an amount of a received bid is within at least one of a predetermined amount, a predetermined rank, and a predetermined percentage of another bid for the lot.

154. The machine-readable medium of claim 151, wherein the overtime condition occurs if a received bid is submitted by an incumbent supplier.

155. A machine-readable medium for controlling overtime in an electronic auction, the medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:
define an overtime triggering interval, an extension time interval, an overtime condition, and a closing time for a lot;

determine whether the overtime condition occurs during the overtime triggering interval, the overtime condition comprising:

receiving a plurality of bids having a bid price,

determining a current best bid, and

receiving a bid having a bid price not better than the current best bid; and

extend the closing time by the extension time interval in accordance with the determination.

156. The machine-readable medium of claim 155, wherein the overtime triggering interval equals the extension time interval.